

expend in the purchase of beef at this advanced season, but C. S. C. if I find it otherwise I will call on him for a further sum agreeable to your instructions. It is a great misfortune this commission was not given to me about the first of December. At that time I could have purchased a hundred thousand with as little trouble as I now expect to buy a fifth part of the quantity (if to be had at all) and at 25 per cent less. I have employed one of the most skilful hands on this shore about this kind of business who is now out and will secure all he can that is yet remaining to be disposed of hereabouts.

I have also to inform you that I received yours per Capt. Patterson of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult. and by him I was informed he had no other salt on board but the 50 bushels you sent for me, that he was certain the quantity would hold out and that it would not be worth while to measure it as he wanted to be despatched; accordingly I sent my carts with large cases (which I use on like occasions) to receive the salt intending to take it upon his word and in order to hurry the people I went to Town myself but seeing the cases not near as full as I expected to find them I was induced to have the salt measured by a careful hand. I also staid by myself and found I had only  $38\frac{3}{4}$  Bushels in the place of 50. Capt. Patterson came up here by land before his vessel arrived and returned again to Oxford before her, nor was he on board while here, neither the mate nor any of the hands came on shore after the delivery to get a receipt, which I promised Capt. Patterson to give them: had they done this I should on seeing the bulk so small have refused untill I had seen it measured. I think it my duty to inform you of these circumstances that you may enquire whence this deficiency arises as there has certainly been a very grand mistake or some foul play on the occasion, being very clear a greater quantity than  $38\frac{3}{4}$  bushels was never delivered to my people and if you think it necessary I will send you my own deposition, and that of an indifferent person respecting this matter.

I am Sirs,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> & Humb<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Rob<sup>t</sup> Harrison.

The Honble The Council of Safety  
in Annapolis

Tuesday, February 4, 1777.

C. S. J.

Council met. Present as on yesterday.

Commissions issued to Thomas Sim Lee appointed Col. Luke Marbury, Lieutenant Colonel, Truman Skinner, first Major and William Lyles junior second Major of the lower Battalion of Militia in Prince George's County.